

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 June 2005 (23.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/057419 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/00**

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(21) International Application Number:

PCT/AU2004/001745

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(22) International Filing Date:

10 December 2004 (10.12.2004)

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

2003906888 10 December 2003 (10.12.2003) AU

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

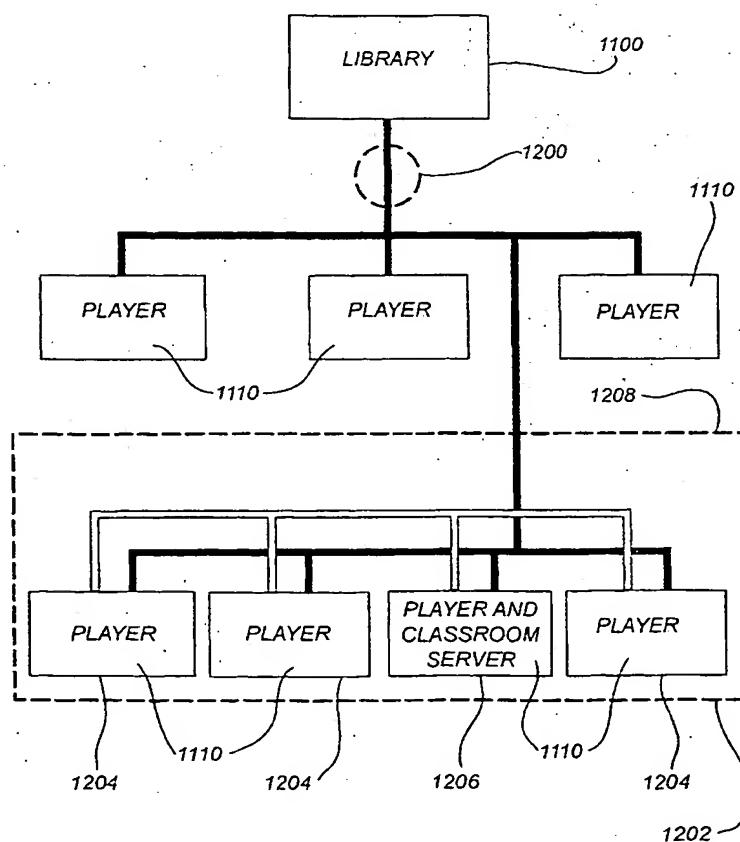
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MEDIA STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION IN A LOCAL AREA NETWORK



(57) Abstract: Software for storing and distributing media in a local area network is disclosed. The software comprises library software and player. The library software manages encrypted media files, for example, video files, and sends them to the player on request. The media files may be chapterised and the player may request one or more chapters. The player decodes the encrypted file and displays it. The player improves performance by using predictive chapter buffering, requesting the transfer of the next chapter from the library at time so that the file is completely received and ready to play at the time the current media playing is complete. The player minimises the number of requests to the library by automatically creating a public folder of received files so that requests for one of the received files in the folder are transferred from the library to the player.

WO 2005/057419 A1



European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.